

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-9 and add new claims 10-12 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. (Currently amended) A bacterium belonging to the genus *Methylobacillus*, into which a DNA which is able to be expressed is introduced, and which has an ability to produce L-lysine or L-arginine, wherein said DNA encodes a variant of a protein, ~~the protein having a loop region and six hydrophobic helices and is involved in secretion of L-lysine to the outside of a cell, and wherein said variant does not contain said loop region and facilitates secretion of L-lysine, L-arginine, or both to the outside of a methanol-assimilating bacterium when said DNA is introduced into said methanol-assimilating bacterium~~ protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

2-7. (Canceled).

8. (Withdrawn) A method for producing L-lysine or L-arginine, comprising culturing the bacterium belonging to the genus *Methylobacillus* of claim 1 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-lysine or L-arginine in culture, and collecting L-lysine or L-arginine from the culture.

9. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The method for producing L-lysine or L-arginine according to claim 8, wherein the medium contains methanol, ~~as a main carbon source.~~

10. (New) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein said DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9.

11. (New) A method for producing L-lysine or L-arginine, comprising culturing the bacterium belonging to the genus *Methylobacillus* of claim 10 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-lysine or L-arginine in culture, and collecting L-lysine or L-arginine from the culture.

12. (New) The method for producing L-lysine or L-arginine according to claim 11, wherein the medium contains methanol.